



Reverend Charles Lee Eby

May 5, 1936 - March 10, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Charles Lee Eby.

Charles Lee Eby, of Nashville, Tennessee, was born on May 5th, 1936, in Miami, Florida, to Enos and Ruth (Sommers) Eby. He passed away on March 10th, 2022, two months before his 86th birthday.

He is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, Carol Anne (Asbury) Eby; four children, Mark Asbury Eby, Lee Ann (Theo) Dekker, Timothy Ray (Michelle) Eby and Melanie Marie Eby; 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren with one on the way. He is the last of his 3 sisters and 2 brothers to meet their Creator. His family will miss his gentle, quiet spirit and constant support of all their endeavors.

Lee's father worked for the city of Miami in the public works department and his family were founding members of Miami First Church of the Nazarene. Lee lived a long and adventure-filled life. He excelled early in his studies and was the valedictorian of his class of 400 at Miami Jackson High School, and the top of his class in all his subsequent academic endeavors. Lee felt called to be a missionary when he was 12 years old. He left Miami at age 18 to attend Trevecca Nazarene College (TNC) in Nashville, Tennessee, where he met a girl from Kentucky, Carol Anne, with a similar calling. They were married June 10th, 1958, on the same day as Lee's graduation from Trevecca. The newly married couple moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend Nazarene Theological Seminary the next Fall where he would complete a Master of Divinity. His final year of seminary, he received the Senior Preaching award and preached his senior sermon in Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, as was tradition. He was ordained as an Elder in the Church of the Nazarene in Joplin, Missouri, in 1960 along with Nina and Moody Gunter. After seminary the young couple moved to Arlington, Texas, where he would pastor for the next two years before heading for the Territory of Papua and New Guinea in the South Pacific as missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene, with a 20-month-old son and a 3-month-old daughter.

His assignment on the mission field was to establish a Bible School to train indigenous pastors. For the next 20 years he did so faithfully as the Principal and wore many different hats as the work demanded and developed. Today that Bible School has grown into Melanesia Nazarene Bible College. The last two years of his missionary service, he also held the role of Field Director.

Upon return to the USA in 1981, and then a move to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1982, so that Carol Anne could take up a teaching position in the English Department of TNC, he held positions on staff at College Hill Church (now Trevecca Community), was executive director of Cornerstone Ministries, (an inner-city ministry in the Vine Hill area) and worked in administration at Trevecca Towers Retirement Center. He also taught missiology and linguistics as an adjunct professor at TNC. His final 15 years of ministry, before retirement in 2003, was as the Executive Director of World Relief Nashville. During those 15 years he touched countless lives from the Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Armenian, Kurdish, Iraqi, Iranian, Southern Sudanese, Ethiopian, Rwandan, Congolese, and Somalian communities, as well as others.

He was an active member of Trevecca Community Church and the Round Table Sunday School class. He was responsible for displaying the flags of many nations during Faith Promise Sunday as well as changing the weekly "Missions Flag" as a reminder to the congregation to pray for a different country each week. His love for Jesus was evident to all and his quiet faithfulness to follow his Savior inspired so many.

Unable to "retire" in his retirement, he volunteered at Ten Thousand Villages, a fair-trade store in Green Hills, that has roots in the work of Mennonite Central Committee, serving as a volunteer cashier, building displays, serving as a board member, and even board President for a time. He also taught citizenship classes through the Nashville Public Library to many of those who would have arrived as refugees or immigrants and sought US citizenship.

Continuing his creative pursuits, he worked on building the first and only trans-highlands railroad through the valleys of PNG, in the family room of his home. Anyone who wanted to see it got a beautiful description of the details of model train building. Hopefully, one day, it will be recreated in another space by his descendants, because of course a model train build is never complete.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made through Trevecca Community Church to be given in Lee's memory to the Melanesia Nazarene Bible College that he founded.

Trevecca Community Church

335 Murfreesboro Pike

Nashville, TN 37210

Checks can be made to the church with

Lee Eby memorial - Nazarene Bible College in the memo line.

Online donations can be made at www.Trevecca.church/give

Choose drop down "special" and add the memo

Lee Eby memorial

A visitation will take place on Sunday, March 20th, 2022 at Trevecca Community Church from one o'clock to two thirty in the afternoon. A funeral service will follow at three o'clock at Trevecca Community Church. An entombment ceremony will take place on Monday, March 21st, 2022 at Historic Spring Hill Cemetery at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, "Where Nashville Comes to Remember."

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Trevecca Community Church of the Nazarene
335 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37210
<http://www.tccn.org>

Funeral Service

MAR 20. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Trevecca Community Church of the Nazarene
335 Murfreesboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37210
<http://www.tccn.org>

Entombment

MAR 21. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Historic Spring Hill Cemetery
5110 Gallatin Road
Nashville, TN 37216

Tribute Wall



“ Our whole family send their love and condolences to our dear friends the Eby family. I personally am so indebted to Lee and will ever be thankful for the opportunity of serving with him and under him at what was Nazarene Bible College, Papua New Guinea.

My dream missionary assignment was to teach in a Bible College in a cross cultural setting so I was overjoyed when we arrived in PNG to discover that we had been assigned to serve with Lee and Carol Ann at the college at Ningei. Lee was a joy to work with, to worship with, to learn from, to share our dreams and hopes for the education of Christian pastors and church leaders for our growing work in Papua New Guinea. Lee had a wonderful intellect, an amazing serving attitude and spirit, amazing practical skills and a joy to work with.

Although supremely an educator he remained a great pastor, preacher and example. He was gifted in language and cultural knowledge and had a great relationship with the people we came to serve. He was a great mentor as he not only helped to to understand and pursue my calling and assignment but he was also a willing listener who never dismissed what I had to say or offer and he made many gracious concessions to allow me to try out ideas. I could not have had a better guide in my early development.

In later years when Lee became the Mission director and I succeeded him as the college Principal I really missed our old working relationship. The Eby family embraced us as a family, we shared so much together to such a degree that when we returned to the UK for our first furlough after 4 years and I introduced our children to their biological Aunts and Uncles, our son said, 'These are not our real Aunts and Uncles, our real Aunts and Uncles and Aunt Carol Ann and Uncle Lee. Alistair also told me his ambition when he grew up was to be like Uncle Lee. I asked him if this meant he wanted to be a Bible College Principal. 'No' he answered, 'I want to be like uncle Lee, he fixes things'.

Carol Ann, you too are an amazing teacher, missionary, gifted in so many areas and totally generous and hospitable. We still remember the energy you put everything, multi-tasking and fitting so much into everyday yet ever inviting people to meals and fellowship. Both you and Lee had such creative skills and you have enriched our lives, as a family, more that any short tribute can express. In short we love you all. Clive for the Burrows family.

Clive Burrows - March 17 at 06:38 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Reverend Charles Lee Eby.*



March 14 at 03:32 PM

JB

“ *Sweet, kind and giving. A pleasure to know and to work with. Dedicated to what and who he believed in. So very blessed to have known him.*

Jo Brummitt - March 12 at 03:03 PM